

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 L-03 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

ACDA-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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O P 091250Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 2271

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T MANAMA 0790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, BA, US

SUBJECT : MIDEASTFOR STATUS

REFERENCE : STATE 160780

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 9 AND CONVEYED TO HIM INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. HE ASSURED ME GOB WOULD AVOID IRREVOCABLE COMMITMENTS DURING HIS MEETING WITH GULF COLLEAGUES IN SAUDI ARABIA. HE ADDED THAT GOB CONSIDERS A TWO YEAR LIMITATION ON FUTURE NAVAL PRESENCE A REASONABLE "MINIMUM" FIGURE WHILE BOTH GOVERNMENTS SEE HOW THE FUTURE DEVELOPS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID LEGAL MINISTER WAS PREPARING TEXT OF GOB'S NOTIFICATION AND IT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. I URGED THAT GOB SEND US NOTHING UNTIL WE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER FURTHER EXPLAINING THAT IN ANY EVENT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY AWKWARD FOR US TO RECEIVE ANY FORMAL DOCUMENT FROM GOB UNTIL WE HAD SEEN INFORMAL DRAFT. FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED. HE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT, IF GOB DOES EVENTUALLY SEND US SOMETHING IN WRITING ON TWO YEAR LIMIT AND WE ARE GOING TO PROCEED WITH EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS BASED ON OUR RECENT NEGOTIATIONS, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FROM OUR SIDE THAT EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTS TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO GOB'S NOTIFICATION.

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3. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE HOPED THAT WE WERE NOT GOING TO ARGUE ABOUT THE PRINCIPLE OF GOB'S BEING ABLE TO NOTIFY US OF ITS DESIRE TO SEE NAVY PRESENCE TERMINATED AT SOME POINT IN TIME. I TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BEYOND THOSE WHICH I HAD CONVEYED TO HIM BUT THAT THE QUESTION SEEMED ALMOST IRRELEVANT SINCE WE ALREADY ARE COMMITTED BY AGREEMENT TO EITHER PARTY'S BEING ABLE TO TERMINATE THE MIDEASTFOR STATIONING ARRANGEMENTS BY FORMAL NOTIFICATION AT ANY TIME AT ONE YEAR'S NOTICE.

4. WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER SEEMED EXTREMELY RELAXED ABOUT STATE OF PRESENT AND FUTURE U.S.-BAHRAINI RELATIONS, HE CONVEYED QUIET FURY OVER RECENT IRANI-SAUDI COMMUNIQUE. HE SAID THAT WHEN THE SAUDIS AND IRANIANS GET THROUGH POSTURING IN PUBLIC, IT WILL APPEAR AS IF "THE AMIR, THE PRIME MINISTER AND I ARE THE ONLY THREE PEOPLE IN ALL OF THE GULF TRYING TO HANG ON TO THE U.S. NAVY PRESENCE." HE SAID HE HAD CALLED IN IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO COMPLAIN ABOUT COMMUNIQUE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER DOES NOT EXPECT TO RETURN FROM SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE JULY 15 AT EARLIEST.

6. APPRECIATE PROMPT RESPONSE CONVEYED STATE REFTEL.
TWINAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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